Apart from the above, Government have allowed M/s. Utkal Alumina International (Pvt.) Ltd. and M/s. Larsen & Toubro to set up 100% export oriented units (EOU) alumina plants of one million tonne capacity each in orissa.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Modernisation of IISCO

2253. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the five Central Trade Unions have submitted a joint memorandum to the Minister for Steel and Mines on the question of modernization of IISCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the points raised in the Memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The five Central Trade Unions have submitted a joint memorandum to the Minister for Steel and Mines inter-alia requesting that IISCO as a whole should be modernised within the public sector framework preferably by SAIL in the overall interest of the industry and country.

(c) A proposal for modernisation of IISCO through SAIL, by utilisation of funds from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) is under consideration of the Government.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Restructuring of IISCO at Burnpur

2254. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restructuring of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur continues to be on the active agenda of Government;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has recently submitted a proposal in this regard involving a funding of approximately Rs. 1,200 crores by Government; and

(c) given the long time already taken for reaching a decision in the matter; would Government be prepared to offer its views on the latest proposal by July 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (c) Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June 1994. Various schemes/proposals for revival and modernisation of IISCO were considered but could not be finalised due mainly to fund constraints. A proposal for modernisation of IISCO by utilisation of funds from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) is under consideration of the Government.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

Gold Mines in Orissa

2255. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold mines in the country;

(b) whether Government have found gold reserve areas in the country particularly in Orissa;